



**Tentative program  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
June 25<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Congrescentrum De Werelt**

Westhofflaan 2, 6741 KH Lunteren



## THURSDAY JUNE 25th 2026

- 9.00            **Registration and Coffee**
- 9.30            **Welcome and Opening Announcements**  
**Victor van Beusechem, President of the NVGCT**
- 9.35 - 11.00    **SESSION I    STEM CELLS & GENE EDITING**  
**Chair: Massimiliano Caiazza**
- 9.35            **FRANÇOISE CARLOTTI, LUMC**  
*Towards the next generation of beta cell replacement therapy for type 1 diabetes*
- 10.05          **SANDER KOOIJMANS, UMC Utrecht**  
*Structural modification of short hairpin RNAs promotes siRNA delivery by biological vectors*
- 10.30          **MAAIKE LENDERINK, UMC Utrecht**  
*Toward Scalable In Vivo Gene Correction for Mevalonate Kinase Deficiency and other Inherited Metabolic Diseases: A Platform-Based Preclinical Approach*
- 10.45          **EVELINE ILCKEN, UMC Utrecht**  
*High throughput pegRNA screen for therapeutic prime editing of monogenic disorders*
- 11.00          Coffee break
- 11.30          **EXHIBITOR PITCHES**  
**Chair: Frédérique de Graaf**  
**Eurofins, Fujifilm Europe, Miltenyi en Sartorius**
- 11.50          **ZonMw Young Investigator SpeedDate Challenge part 1**  
**Chair: Jan Theys**  
  
*Presentation by 2025 winners: **Despoina Trasanidou** (Sanquin)  
**Tessa Prins** (ExoVectory)*
- 12.00          **STORYTELLING**  
**Chair: Niek van Til**  
  
**MARLOES ten KATE, Take the Stage**  
*Pitch Perfect*
- 13.00-14:00    Lunch



- 13.30 - 14.30 ZonMw Young Investigator SpeedDate Challenge part 2**  
**Chair: Jan Theys**  
*Speed-dating (PIs & young investigators)*
- 14.30 - 15.15 KEYNOTE LECTURE**  
**Chair: Niek van Til**  
**ZOLTAN IVICS (University of Leipzig, Germany)**  
*Going non-viral: genetic engineering of therapeutic cells with transposon technologies*
- 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.45 - 17.00 SESSION II RARE-NL – A PLATFORM FOR RARE DISEASES**  
**Chair: Karien de Rooij**
- 15.45 SIBREN van den BERG, RARE-NL & MIKE BROEDERS, FAST**  
*RARE-NL and ATMP-NL: building towards sustainable development and access for rare diseases and ATMPs*
- 16.00 GERTY SCHREIBELT & RENÉE RAAIJMAKERS, Radboudumc**  
*Therapy Accelerator for Rare Diseases: Advancing genetically corrected pericyte therapy for Myotonic Dystrophy type*
- 16.15 DIRK van ASSELDONK, Lenticure**  
*Challenges of a Social Enterprise*
- 16.30 JASMIJN KORPERSHOEK, UMC Utrecht**  
*IMPACT: autologous chondrons combined with allogeneic MSCs for treatment of cartilage defects*
- 16.45 DISCUSSION**
- 17.00 NVGCT General Assembly
- 17.30 POSTER SESSION AND DRINKS**
- P1 THIJS RIETVELD, LUMC
  - P2 AXELLE LORIAUX, CELL SIGNALING TECHNOLOGY, USA
  - P3 MARTIJN KOPPENS, UMC UTRECHT
  - P4 PIERRE SPRINGUEL, SARTORIUS
  - P5 ALEXEY PINDYURIN, ANNOGEN BV
  - P6 CLARA ALEMANY, ERASMUS MC
  - P7 GIORGIO GILIOLI, LUMC
  - P8 YUE CHEN, AMSTERDAM UMC
  - P9 SIMON STAUBACH, SARTORIUS
  - P10 PEIYU LI, AMSTERDAM UMC
  - P11 JOSE CASTRO-ALPÍZAR, UMC UTRECHT
  - P12 GANESH RAMESH, UMC UTRECHT
  - P13 JORT ALTENBURG, UMC UTRECHT
- 19.00 Dinner
- 20.30 LEGENDARY NVGCT PUBQUIZ**  
**Quizmaster: Jan Theys**



## FRIDAY JUNE 26th 2026

- 9.00**            **Announcement Speed Date Finalists**
- 9.05 - 9.45**    **KEYNOTE LECTURE**  
**Chair: Massimiliano Caiazzo**  
**GABRIELE LIGNANI (University College London, UK)**  
*Reprogramming Brain Circuits: Towards On-Demand Gene Therapy for Neurological Disorders*
- 9.45 - 10.45**   **SESSION III    NEURO & METABOLIC**  
**Chair: Annelot van Esbroeck**
- 9.45**            **KIMBERLY PIETERSZ, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience**  
*Developing AAV-based gene therapy to target the catecholaminergic system in Parkinson's disease*
- 10.05**          **KIM WIJNANT, Radboudumc**  
*Mapping alternative splicing in iPSC-derived brain cells as a resource for therapeutic discovery*
- 10.25**          **ILMA REVERS, Amsterdam UMC**  
*Brain-directed gene therapy rescues a mouse model of neurodegenerative disease vanishing white matter*
- 10.45**          Coffee break
- 11.05 - 11.30**   **Greiner Award for Best Thesis 2025**  
**Chair: Massimiliano Caiazzo**
- 11.30 - 12.00**   **ZonMw Young Investigator SpeedDate Challenge part 3**  
**Chair: Jan Theys**
- Pitches three finalists** (5 minutes pitch, 5 minutes questions each)
- 12.00**          Lunch
- 13.00 - 13.45**   **SESSION IV    REGULATORY**  
**Chair: Vera Kemp**
- 13.00**          **PATRICK RÜDELSHEIM, 3BIO, Ghent, Belgium**  
*Can new gene therapies result in unintended germline modification?*
- 13.15**          **YUXI ZHAO, LUMC**  
*From guidance to study design: A risk-based regulatory strategy for an innovative in vivo gene editing therapy*
- 13.30**          **CHRISTINE van HATTEM, Utrecht University**  
*Patient access to cell and gene therapies through the European hospital exemption pathway in the Netherlands*



**13.45 IMPORTANCE OF NEGATIVE DATA**

**Chair: Karien de Rooij**

**STEFAN GAILLARD, Journal of Trial and Error**

*Failure as Fuel for Scientific Progress*

14.15 Coffee break

**14.45 - 15.45 SESSION V GENE THERAPY FOR ONCOLOGY**

**Chair: Enrico Mastrobattista**

**14.45 DANIEL MATA, Princess Máxima Center**

*Targeted Lipid Nanoparticles for the In Vivo Silencing of RUNX1::ETO in AML*

**15.00 JELLA van de LAAK, Maastricht University**

*Genetically modified bacteria as anti-cancer Trojan horse; in vivo anticancer effects of intratumoral immunotherapy producing Clostridium sporogenes*

**15.15 JAIME FERNÁNDEZ BIMBO, Utrecht University**

*Specificity and biodistribution of a T cell-targeted lipid nanoparticle for in vivo CAR-T generation*

**15.30 TEREZA BRACHTLOVA, Amsterdam UMC/ORCA Therapeutics**

*ORCA-010 Oncolytic Adenovirus Converts Immunologically Cold Tumors to Hot and Drives Durable Anti-Tumor Immune Responses: Phase I/IIa Results in Prostate Cancer*

**15.45 NVGCT OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CEREMONY**

**Chair: Victor van Beusechem**

**ROB HOEBEN, LUMC**

*Genetic modification and spontaneous mutation as complementary approaches for generating genetic diversity in oncolytic viruses*

**16.30 Announcement Award winners (ZonMw SpeedDate Award)**

**Jan Theys**

**16.45 Closing remarks**

**Victor van Beusechem, President of the NVGCT**

17.00 END



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